Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (withdrawn) Process for preparing a solid pharmaceutical composition of perindopril or a salt thereof, comprising

(i) dry mixing of perindopril or a salt thereof with at least one inorganic carbonate, at least one carrier, and optionally other components, and

(ii) dry processing of the mixture obtained in step (i) to the desired solid form.

2. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises the tert.-butyl amine salt of perindopril.

3. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic carbonate is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate, sodium hydrogen carbonate, magnesium carbonate, calcium carbonate or calcium hydrogen carbonate.

4. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of perindopril or a salt thereof to inorganic carbonate is 1 to 0.1-0.9 and preferably 1 to 0.50-0.83.

5. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is microcrystalline cellulose, lactose or a mixture thereof.

6. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 5, wherein the microcrystalline cellulose has a moisture content of 0.3 to 5.0% by weight, preferably 0.3 to 1.5% by weight.

7. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 5, wherein the lactose is anhydrous lactose.

8. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 1, wherein step (ii) is effected by direct compression of the mixture.

9. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 1, wherein the composition also comprises indapamide or a hydrate thereof.

10. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 9, wherein the hydrate is indapamide hemihydrate.

11. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 9, wherein 90% of the particles of indapamide or a hydrate thereof have a size of less than 80 μm.

12. (withdrawn) Process according to claim 11, wherein 90% of the particles of indapamide or a hydrate thereof have a size of less than 70 μm.

13. (currently amended) Solid pharmaceutical composition of perindopril or a salt thereof, comprising

(a) perindopril or a salt thereof,

(b) ~~at least one of~~ microcrystalline cellulose having a moisture content of 0.3 to 5.0% by weight and anhydrous lactose,

(c) at least one inorganic carbonate, and

(d) optionally other components,

with the proviso that ~~components of said pharmaceutical composition have low moisture content or are substantially anhydrous, whereby~~ said pharmaceutical composition has 0.07 wt% or less diketopiperazine (DKP) content after three weeks storage at 50°C in a closed container.

14. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the molar ratio of perindopril or a salt thereof to inorganic carbonate is 1 to 0.1-0.9 ~~and preferably 1 to 0.50-0.83~~.

15. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the microcrystalline cellulose has a moisture content of 0.3 to 1.5% by weight.

16. (original) Composition according to claim 15 which further comprises indapamide or a hydrate thereof.

17. (original) Composition according to claim 16, wherein 90% by volume of the particles of indapamide or a hydrate thereof have a size of less than 80 μm.

18. (new) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the molar ratio of perindopril or a salt thereof to inorganic carbonate is 1 to 0.50-0.83.